

Hitherto, as far as I am aware, no worked stone of this class has ever been found in Singapore, though stone implements have been obtained in some numbers in Perak and Pahang, where they are known as *Batu Linta*. These latter are generally made of a black igneous rock, and of a narrower form than the present one. The form, however, of a stone axe must always depend on the texture and hardness of the stone and its cleavage. And the exceedingly hard texture of this granite is, no doubt, the reason for its broad shape. The edge has evidently been ground very carefully, but not equally, one side being flatter than the other. From this I gather that the weapon was used as an adze or *biliang*.

Of what race were the makers of these weapons we are entirely ignorant, none of the wild tribes use stone weapons, nor do they know anything about those that are found in the Peninsula. Nor is the stone of which the Pahang specimens are made, known at all from this region. It is probable that these were brought from farther East, but the Singapore specimen is made of granite, and of such granite as is found at no great distance from Tanjong Karang, namely, at Pulau Ubin, and I also found an outcrop of granite in one of the hills between Tanjong Karang and Toas. It is probable, therefore, that it was made on or near the spot where it was found, possibly from a sea-shore pebble of granite from the neighbourhood of Pulau Ubin.

H. N. R.

PANTANG LARANG OF NEGRI SEMBILAN.

The Yam Tuan Besar of Negri Sembilan has recently caused to be published certain rules for the conduct of the Malays of that State. These rules—*Pantang Larang*—are not new, but are some of the old rules of the State. They are now published to show the masses that the Malay customs are in full force as hitherto. The following is a translation :—

It is forbidden—

1. To fire guns or cannons during the three days previous to either of the great feasts called *Hari Raia* or *Hari Raia Haji*, *i. e.*, on the 28th, 29th or 30th of Jal Haija.

2. To disobey a lawful order of the Raja or Penghulu.

3. For any one to wear clothes of the colours which are set apart as the special colour attached to the Rajaship, or to any State office, such as yellow, which is the Raja's colour: or to carry the hair-ornamented spear, or to wear entirely black clothing, which may only be the dress of officers such as the *Laksamana*.

4. For any person to make use of and display weapons or articles similar to the insignia of a Chief or State officer, as such insignia.

5. To recite the form of prayer called *Hothbah*, except at the Istana, Penghulu's or Lembaga's Court-house, Mosque, or at any other place specially set apart by the Raja or Penghulu.

6. For any person to wear weapons having gold or silver ornaments covering either the end of the handle or of the sheath, except by permission or rank.

7. To arrange his house or premises similarly to a royal hall, called *Balei jariga*, which is fenced round with split *runyong* (the *Kabong* tree) according to the ancient custom in the country of Menangkabau, with gates roofed (*i. e.*, with an arch over them), with the exception of persons who are permitted by the Raja or Penghulu.

8. The big drum of the Mosque is not to be beaten, except on feast days or on the occasion of any public calamity, or at a calling together of the people.

Dahga Dahgi. This means that the people of low rank must never disobey the orders of those of higher rank than themselves.

Sumbang Salah. This means that the children of two women who are sisters cannot marry each other. It is against the law of the country.

Chelaka Derahka means that whosoever disobeys these orders shall be considered guilty of treason.

Whoever disobeys the aforesaid rules is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

M. L.

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A RHODODENDRON IN SINGAPORE.

In January of this year, while walking near the bungalow on the top of Bukit Timah with Lieutenant KELSALL, I observed in the upper branches of a lofty Dipterocarpous tree, probably a species of *Shorea*, an epiphytic plant with red flowers. On going to the foot of the tree we picked up several fallen blossoms, from which it was evident that the plant was a species of *Rhododendron*, and that, one not known to occur in the Malay Peninsula. The tree was about 150 feet high, and about 6 feet through, without a branch for fully 80 feet, so that it was by no means easy to reach it. The following plan was then adopted. A number of large spike nails were driven into the tree, and a pole lashed to them so as to form a ladder, for about a quarter of a distance. A Malay then ascended this with a further supply of nails, and a pulley block being fixed to the tree another pole was hauled up and made fast to the lower one. This was done again and again till the lowest branch was reached, and eventually the plant was lowered to the ground. There were two plants on the tree, which were transferred to the Botanic Gardens, where one remained a long time in flower. The plant is an exceedingly beautiful one, with clusters of nodding flowers about two inches long, of a beautiful crimson-red colour. It appears to be identical with one figured in the Botanical Magazine under the name of *Rhododendron javanicum* var. *tubiflorum* (Tab. 9850), differing only in the colour, which in the picture is a very dull red. The plant from which this drawing was made was ob-